

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David R. Knighton et al. Attorney Docket: EMB1007USC2

Serial No.: **To Be Assigned** Group Art Unit: 3742

Filed: herewith Examiner: Fadi H. Dahbour

For: VEIN HARVESTING SYSTEM AND METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the following information is set forth in compliance with Applicants' duty of disclosure, as well as the duty of others substantively involved in the preparation of the above-titled application.

The Applicants and others substantively involved in the preparation of the application are aware of the documents cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents were provided in related prior application U.S. Serial No. 10,391,148, filed March 18, 2003. The present application relies on U.S. Serial No. 10,391,148 for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), these copies are not provided with this Information Disclosure Statement.

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label No. EV 399043890US and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: February 17, 2004

Signature: _____

Name: Jodi Jung

The present statement reflects the direct knowledge of the undersigned and information disclosed to the undersigned by the Applicants and others substantively involved in the preparation of the present application pursuant to their duty under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Applicants reserve the right to show, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, that any one or more of the documents cited on the PTO-1449 form is not prior art to the present invention.

Pursuant to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Chapter 609, Applicants request that the Examiner consider each of the listed documents and initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form (submitted in duplicate).

It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with this submission. However if this is incorrect, please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 16-2312.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/17/04

By 

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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	R	E	3	6	0	4	3	01/12/99	Knighton			
	1	8	6	7	6	2	4	07/19/32	Hoffman			
	2	0	0	1	1	6	9	05/14/35	Wallace			
	2	0	1	1	1	6	9	08/13/35	Wappler			
	2	0	2	8	6	3	5	01/21/36	Wappler			
	2	3	1	6	2	9	7	04/13/43	Southerland et al.			
	2	8	6	8	2	0	6	01/13/59	Stoesser			
	2	9	4	4	5	5	2	07/12/60	Cannon			
	3	1	8	5	1	5	5	05/25/65	Slaten et al.			
	3	3	3	6	9	1	6	08/22/67	Edlich			
	3	8	5	6	0	1	6	12/24/74	Davis			
	3	8	8	2	8	5	4	05/13/75	Hulka et al.			
	3	9	3	4	1	1	5	01/20/76	Peterson			
	4	0	3	8	9	8	7	08/02/77	Komiya			
	4	3	6	2	1	6	0	12/07/82	Hiltebrandt			
	4	4	4	0	1	7	0	04/03/84	Golden et al.			
	4	5	5	6	0	5	8	12/03/85	Green			
	4	7	6	8	5	0	8	09/06/88	Chin et al.			
	4	7	9	3	3	4	6	12/27/88	Mindich			
	5	0	3	7	4	3	3	08/06/91	Wilk et al.			
	5	2	8	4	4	7	8	02/08/94	Nobles et al.			
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	5	5	4	9	6	3	7	08/27/96	Crainich			
	5	7	7	2	5	7	6	06/30/98	Knighton et al.			
	5	7	8	2	7	5	3	07/21/98	DeFonzo et al.			
	5	7	9	5	3	3	1	08/18/98	Cragg et al.			
	6	0	7	1	2	3	2	06/06/00	Knighton et al.			
	6	1	1	3	5	8	8	09/05/00	Duhaylongsod et al.			
	6	1	9	3	6	5	3	02/27/01	Evans et al.			
	6	1	9	6	9	6	8	03/06/01	Rydin et al.			
	6	2	2	8	0	2	5	05/08/01	Hipps et al.			
	6	3	2	2	4	9	9	11/27/01	Evans et al.			
	6	3	5	0	2	3	6	02/26/02	Hipps et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	DE 39 42 589 A1	07/04/91	Germany				
	GB 2 082 459 A	03/10/82	United Kingdom				
	GB 2 195 540 A	04/13/88	United Kingdom				
	SU 112367	04/1957	U.S.S.R.				
	SU 510235	05/1976	U.S.S.R.				
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		DeLaria et al., "Leg Wound Complications Associated with Coronary Revascularization," <i>J. Thorac. Cardiovasc. Surg.</i> , 81:403-407 (1981).
		Dimitri et al., "A Quick and Atraumatic Method of Autologous Vein Harvesting Using the Subcutaneous Extraluminal Dissector," <i>J. Cardiovasc. Surg.</i> , 28:103-111 (1987).
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		"Incision Decision", Atrium Medical Corporation advertisement, appearing in <i>J. Thorac. Cardiovasc. Surg.</i> , 83(4) (1982).
		Meldrum-Hanna et al., "Long Saphenous Vein Harvesting," <i>J. Surg.</i> , 56:923-924 (1986).
		Moazami et al., "Minimally Invasive Greater Saphenous Vein Harvesting for Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery," <i>Surgical Rounds</i> , pp. 94-98 (March 1997).
		Rashid et al., "Subcutaneous Technique for Saphenous Vein Harvest," <i>Ann. Thorac. Surg.</i> , 37(2):169-170 (1984).
		"Saphenous Vein Grafts are No. 1. Period.," Atrium Medical Corporation advertisement, appearing in <i>J. Thorac. Cardiovasc. Surg.</i> , 81(6) (1981).
		Wheatley, D.J., ed., <i>Surgery of Coronary Artery Disease</i> , C.V. Mosby Co., pp. 348-349, 374-375.
		Commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Serial No. 09/715,665, filed November 17, 2000.
		PCT Search Report for corresponding PCT/US01/45166 (4 pages).

EXAMINER**DATE CONSIDERED**

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